

8th February 1924]

Public Services.

Rules framed for the appointment and control of officers in the Public Services.

401 Q.—Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR: Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(1) whether any rules were framed for the appointment and control of officers of the Public Services in the pre-Reform days;

(2) if so, whether the Government will be pleased to lay a copy on the Table;

(3) if not, what was the procedure adopted in making appointments and who made them;

(4) whether any rules have been framed after the Reform Act was passed in 1919;

(5) whether the Government will be pleased to lay them on the table;

(6) whether any changes have been made in the rules or procedure within the last six months; and

(7) if there has been any change in the rules or the procedure followed, what is the reason for such change?

A.—The existing position of affairs has been explained at length in the answer to question No. 197. The position as it affected Members of Council prior to the Reforms was substantially the same as it is now. The Government do not propose to lay any papers upon the table.

Public Services Commission.

Evidence of the European Officers of the Indian Education Service before the Lee Commission.

402 Q.—Mr. S. SATYAMURTI: Will the hon. the Member for Finance and the hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state whether his attention has been drawn to the Memorandum of Evidence submitted by the Association of European Officers of the Indian Education Service to the Lee Commission, and the enclosures thereto?

A.—Yes.

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—“ May I ask the hon. the Minister for Education whether he has noted the fact given in evidence in the course of the proceedings of the Lee Commission that the European officers do not get sufficient or adequate protection from the Minister and, if so, if that is a fact? ”

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO:—“ I do not know any such allegation was made, and, if the allegation was made, I say, the allegation is incorrect.”

Stationery and Printing.

High cost of printing in certain Government Presses.

403 Q.—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(1) why the average cost of printing per page is so high as Rs. 6-7-3 at the Penitentiary Branch Press and Rs. 2-10-9 in the Ootacamund Branch Press while it is less than Rs. 1-14-0 in the Central and Mount Road Branch Presses;

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(2) why the cost of 1,000 impressions is Rs. 8-11-7 in the Ootacamund Branch Press while it is only As. 7-5 in the Penitentiary Branch Press; and

(3) the steps taken by the Government to reduce the printing and impression charges in presses where they are excessive?

A.—(1) & (2) It is hoped that the table appended will explain matters to the satisfaction of the hon. Member. Where the amount of setting and examining work is comparatively small, the cost of setting a page is comparatively large. Where a large number of impressions are taken from a single page, the cost of striking is relatively small. At the Penitentiary Press there are very few skilled compositors, and the bulk of the work done is in striking standardized forms in stereo or electro blocks or from typed matter kept standing for years together. Consequently there is a high average charge for setting and a low average charge for striking. At the Ootacamund Branch Press there is a small staff which is mainly concerned in setting matter at short notice, and the number of copies of the matter struck is comparatively small. Consequently the average cost of setting is fairly high and that of striking a page out of proportion to the cost for the Penitentiary.

(3) The Government do not admit that the printing or impression charges are excessive at any of the presses. They make a practice, however, of having as little setting work done at the Penitentiary Press as possible, while in the case of the Ootacamund Branch Press they keep only a small nucleus staff for the greater part of the year and add to it a temporary staff during the three months when the Government are stationed at Ootacamund.

TABLE.

Presses.	Outturn, 1922-23.		Cost, 1922-23.	
	Pages.	Impressions.	Rate per page.	Rate per 1,000 impressions.
Central Press	145,925	48,248,808	RS. A. P. 1 13 9	RS. A. P. 1 11 9
Mount Road Branch Press.	79,813	12,614,685	1 10 11	3 4 2
Penitentiary Branch Press.	1,308	53,896,603	6 7 3	0 7 5
Ootacamund Branch Press.	2,709	241,328	2 10 9	8 11 7
Total ..	229,755	115,001,424	* 1 13 9	* 1 3 9

*Average cost of the four presses.

Agency.

Punitive tax in the Fituri Agency.

404 Q.—Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(1) the period during which punitive tax was collected in the Fituri area of the Agency, the amount collected and the effect it had;